

Population Pyramids



With a world population of more than 6.4 billion dispersed across more than 190 countries of various shapes and sizes around the globe, it is necessary to determine a method to compare countries equally.

What are Population Pyramids?

- Is a graphical representation of population data
- Displays population data by age and gender
- Is a paired horizontal bar graph
- Uses percentages of males and females for each age group
- Can be used for predicting future population trends

Paint the Population Picture

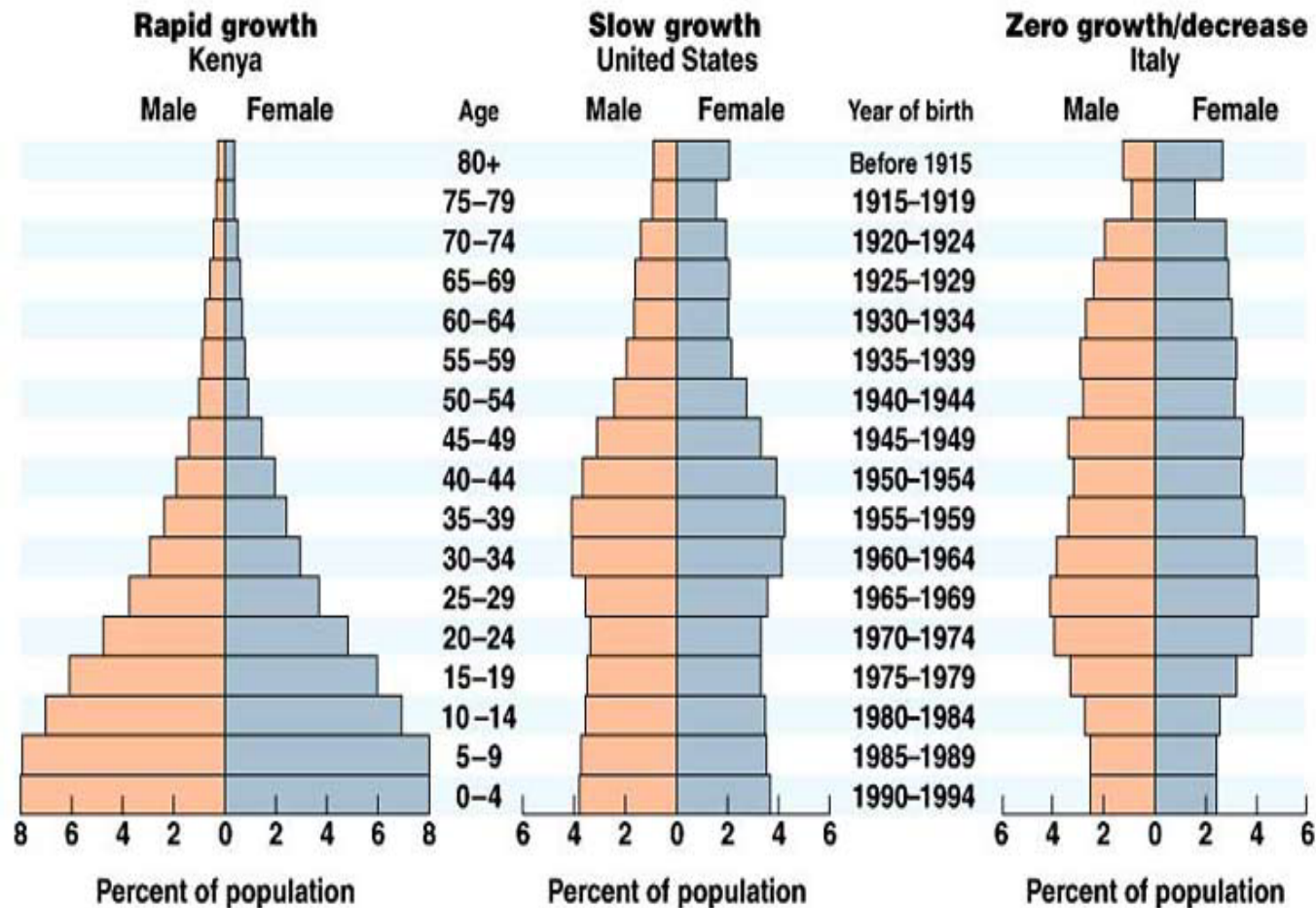
There are 3 main shapes for a population pyramid:

Increasing/Expanding: Has larger numbers or percentages of the population in the younger age groups, usually with each age group smaller in size or proportion than the one born before it

Stable/Stationary: Has relatively equal numbers or percentages for almost all age groups, with the oldest age groups having smaller numbers

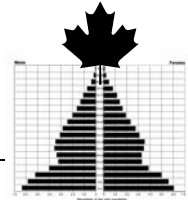
Declining: Has smaller numbers or percentages at the younger age groups, usually with each age group slightly larger than the one below it

Three Shapes of Population Pyramids

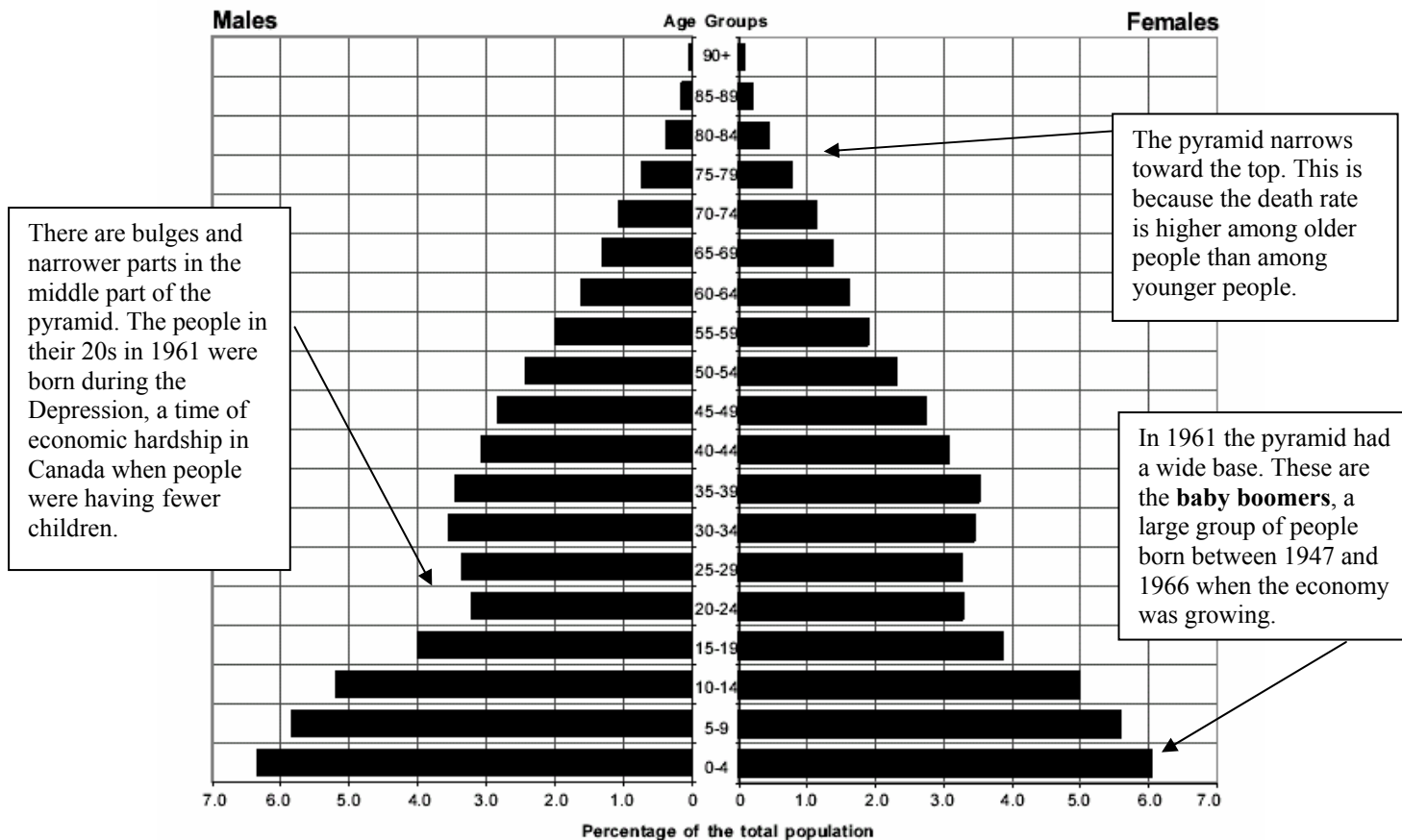


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Population Pyramids Canada



Population Pyramid, 1961



Investigating Population Pyramids



PART A: Answer the following questions using pages 170 – 176 of *Making Connections*.

1. Define **NATURAL INCREASE RATE**:

2. What is Canada's current natural increase rate?

3. How does population growth rate differ from the natural increase rate?

4. What is Canada's current population growth rate?

5. Define **DOUBLING TIME**:

6. Define **RULE OF 70**:

7. Using the Rule of 70, calculate Canada's current doubling time.

8. Demographers group people into 3 important stages

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9. What is the **ASSUMPTION** that is associated with these stages?

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10. Define **DEPENDENCY LOAD**:

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11. What is Canada's current dependency load?

12. a) In sentence format, discuss the impacts of a high dependency load has on the working population.

b) What sort of services or institutions do either children and/or seniors require?

a)
b)

13. Explain how you will recognize a '**BULGE**' in the population pyramid.

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14. What is an **AGE COHORT**?

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PART B: Visit the following website to observe an animation in the change of Canada's population pyramid from 1971 to 2006.

www.statcan.ca/english/kits/animat/pyca.htm



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

15. Describe the general shape changes you see from the animation.

16. By selecting choosing different Canadian regions from the 'Select a region' box you will be able to see how population statistics differ across the country. Comment on your findings below.

By analysing population pyramids and identifying trends, we can learn a lot about our society.

17. Based on the changes you observed from the website make your prediction for the future of Canada's population. What will our population pyramid shape be?

18. Discuss how changes in our population pyramid will affect our economy. How will we be able to sustain our economy with little population growth?

19. a) Create a list of factors that affect the shape of a country's population pyramid.
b) Discuss whether any of these factors can be 'controlled' and by what means?

a)
b)

PART C: Visit the website listed below to select 5 countries from around the world from the alphabetical list provided and view their population pyramids, completing the summary chart below for each of the 5 selected countries. ** When you are selecting your countries be sure to check to make sure that ALL countries have the same unit for population, either thousands or millions. www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbpyr.html

Country					
Continent					
Pyramid Sketch					
Type of Pyramid (Reasoning)					
Bulge Location					
Male vs. Female Distrubtion					
Lasting Impressions					

20. Based on your research and population analysis what do you feel is the largest factor affecting the shape of a population pyramid for a particular country? Explain your answer.

21. a) What does the future hold for the countries you selected?
b) Discuss whether your countries had an increasing, stable or declining population pyramid.
c) Make suggestions as to how countries may increase, decrease or maintain their population.
d) How might your countries population affect their international relationships?

22. How does Canada's population pyramid compare to those pyramids of the 5 countries you investigated? Do you have any concerns for our place in the global market in the future?.

23. If you were a business owner how might you use population pyramids to project for the future? (Be specific)